

Astros honor their namesakes

Baseball and spaceflight came together on April 1 as the STS-107 crew was honored at the Houston Astros' home opener. Families and friends of the STS-107 crew simultaneously threw out seven first pitches to start the Astros' 2003 season, during which the players are wearing the STS-107 mission patch on their uniforms.

The pregame tribute also included a live performance by Patti LaBelle, who sang NASA's anthem "Way Up There" while footage of the STS-107 crew was shown on Minute Maid Park's video screen. NASA's Astronaut Corps and 107 Mission Representatives were also introduced, and the Expedition 6 crew greeted Houston baseball fans from the International Space Station. Another moving segment of the tribute was the national anthem sung by Darius Rucker. During Rucker's performance, Challenger, a trained bald eagle named for the orbiter that was lost in 1986, soared around the stadium. After all the pregame activities, the Astros went on to beat the Colorado Rockies 10-4.

The Houston Astros, formerly called the Houston Colt .45s, were renamed after NASA's Astronauts in 1965 because of Houston's importance to the space program. Nearly 40 years later, the team is still honoring those ties. NASA astronauts will visit some of the cities the Astros play in during the 2003 season to continue the mission of telling the world about the importance of space research, development and exploration. ❖



NASA JSC 2003e27660
Darius Rucker
performs the
national anthem.

Photos by James Blair



NASA JSC 2003e27620
Patti LaBelle sings
'Way Up There'
during the opening
ceremonies. The song was
written for NASA by Tena
Clark to serve as the
Agency's anthem, as well
as to commemorate the
upcoming Centennial
of Flight. However, since
Feb. 1, the song has also
served as a fitting tribute
to the crew of STS-107.



NASA JSC 2003e27644
Evelyn Husband, wife of STS-107 Commander Rick Husband, displays an Astros jersey with her husband's name and mission number on the back to her son, Matthew. Each STS-107 crewmember's family received similar jerseys from the Astros.

NASA JSC 2003e27622
The Expedition 6 crew – Commander Ken Bowersox, NASA ISS Science Officer Don Pettit and Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin – greet the spectators at Minute Maid Park from the International Space Station, while astronauts and Mission Representatives carry the American flag off the field.



NASA JSC 2003e27668
Friends and family of the STS-107 crewmembers deliver seven first pitches to begin the Astros 2003 season.



Baseball pitched aboard space station finally “caught” by Space Center Houston

The International Space Station makes history again – this time, baseball history. The 2002 World Series in Anaheim, Calif. began with the fastest pitch ever: the ball broke all major league records and traveled at 17,500 miles per hour aboard the ISS.

Now this historic baseball, thrown by Expedition 5 NASA ISS Science Officer Dr. Peggy Whitson to Commander Valery Korzun, will have a permanent home at Space Center Houston. ISS Program Manager Bill Gerstenmaier joined Whitson on April 13 to present the all-star baseball “pitched” from space to the visitors’ center. They were also joined by members of the Bellaire Little League as well as Roger Bornstein, Director of Marketing at Space Center Houston, who accepted the ball on behalf of the visitors’ center.

The ceremony, which began with an autograph session by Whitson, included a replay of the very high-altitude pitch as it was recorded by Flight Engineer Sergei Treshev. The pitch was downlinked to the Mission Control Center and broadcast to fans at Anaheim’s Edison Field, as well as to millions of television viewers.

When the baseball, along with the Expedition 5 crewmembers, came back to Earth in December 2002, it was signed by Whitson and by World Series ballplayers. Fans of baseball and spaceflight alike can now enjoy seeing the ball at its new home in Space Center Houston. ♦



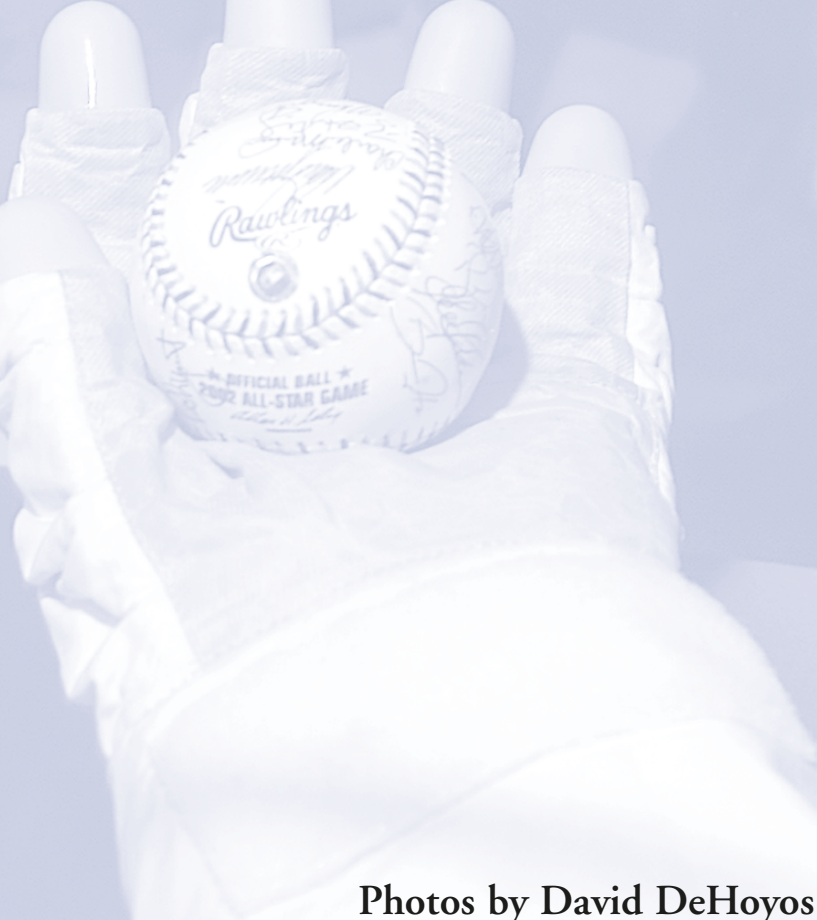
NASA JSC 2003e29441

Expedition 5 NASA ISS Science Officer Peggy Whitson presents to Space Center Houston the baseball that she threw to Expedition 5 Commander Valery Korzun to open the 2002 World Series.

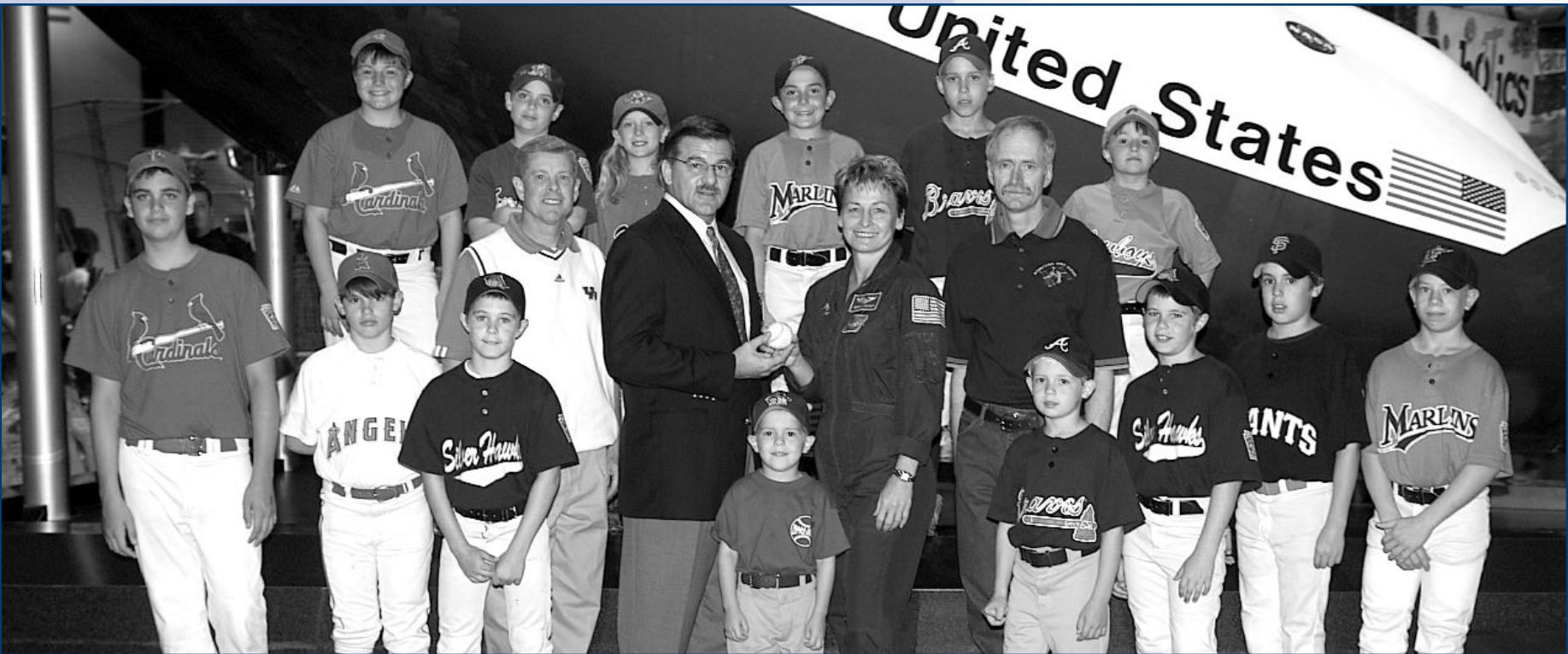


NASA JSC 2003e29433

Whitson signs an autograph for a young fan.



Photos by David DeHoyos



NASA JSC 2003e29449

Whitson is pictured with Rob Kelso, NASA Executive at the Houston Technology Center; Roger Bornstein, Director of Marketing at Space Center Houston; Bill Gerstenmaier, ISS Program Manager; and just a few of the young baseball players who witnessed the presentation of the historic baseball.

Profiles

May is Asian-Pacific American Month



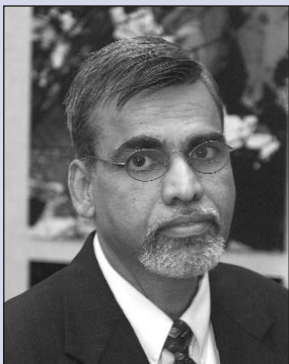
Panna Amin

Time at JSC: 24 years
Organization: Space Vehicle and Mockup Facility
Position title: Space Shuttle Mockup Manager and Facility Manager
Education: Bachelor's of science in electrical engineering from City University of New York
Place of birth: Baroda, India
Hobbies: Reading, traveling, aerobics and spending time with my husband, children and grandson
What does Asian-Pacific American Month mean to you? It is a time to share one of the oldest cultures in the world and learn something from the new culture/generation.
Favorite words of wisdom: Work towards your goals and you will live the life of your dreams.



Anh Huynh

Time at JSC: Almost 15 years
Organization: Extravehicular Activity (EVA) Project Office
Position title: EVA Process Control Lead
Education: Bachelor's of science in mechanical engineering and Master's of science in industrial engineering, both from the University of Houston
Place of birth: Saigon, Vietnam
Hobbies: Spending quality time with family and friends
What does Asian-Pacific American Month mean to you? Opportunities and responsibilities! This observance reminds me of the countless opportunities being offered by this great nation to the refugees and newcomers from southeast Asia. The greatest opportunity of all was to become a U.S. citizen, a representative of the brave and the free. Along with these precious opportunities are the responsibilities to serve and to protect this great nation. This observance is an opportunity for all Asian-Pacific Americans to reflect on their personal contribution and to renew their personal commitment to serve this great nation.
Favorite words of wisdom: Life is short, so live it to the fullest.



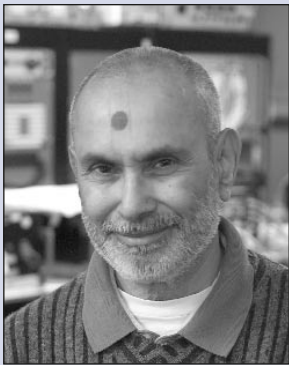
Dr. Kamlesh Lulla

Time at JSC: 15 years
Organization: Space and Life Sciences
Position title: Chief Scientist for Earth Observations
Education: Bachelor's of science, Master's of science, Ph.D. in Earth Sciences and Ph.D. in Space Remote Sensing
Place of birth: India
Hobbies: Map collecting, writing for popular magazines, sciences, history
What does Asian-Pacific American Month mean to you? Celebrating the "diversity of the NASA team" is important for all of us. This is one of the ways to show that our "diversity" is our strength, and makes us a stronger NASA team.
Favorite words of wisdom: "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. Security does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than exposure." – Helen Keller
"Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes." – Mahatma Gandhi
"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." – John F. Kennedy



Stacey T. Nakamura

Time at JSC: 22 years
Organization: Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance Office
Position title: Chief, Safety and Test Operations Division
Education: Bachelor's of science in chemical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Place of birth: Los Angeles, Calif.
Hobbies: Music (all categories), play keyboards for a local band, aquarium fanatic
What does Asian-Pacific American Month mean to you? It is a time to reflect on my family's heritage as well as appreciate and learn about the other Asian-Pacific American cultures. Although my heritage is Japanese-American, my parents were born and raised in Hawaii, which has a rich and diverse culture. I grew up enjoying Chinese, Polynesian, Portuguese, and Japanese foods and customs.
Favorite words of wisdom: Always remember that your employees are real people, with real needs and feelings: they can be much more than "items that are managed." They must be led and inspired.



Suresh M. Patel

Time at JSC: 15 years
Organization: Aircraft Operations Divison
Position title: Aerospace Engineer
Education: Master's degree
Place of birth: India
Hobbies: Volunteering for my temple in Stafford, Texas, and traveling
What does Asian-Pacific American Month mean to you? Awareness of ethnic diversity and understanding others' cultural values make us all better persons.
Favorite words of wisdom: Working as a team is a guarantee for success.

SPACE CENTER Roundup

The *Roundup* is an official publication of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, and is published by the Public Affairs Office for all space center employees. The *Roundup* office is in Bldg. 2, Rm.166A. The mail code is AP121. Visit our Web site at: www.jsc.nasa.gov/roundup/weekly/
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